

centre point between the distal condyles and the epicondylar ridge left a considerable space between it and the wall of the groove. There was no intercondylar eminence in the intercondylar channel, and the orifice of the extensor foramen opened more longitudinally than in *Dinornis* and pointed downwards. Mr. Forbes described two species, *P. haasti* and *P. velox*, distinguishing them by their size.

XLI.—Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.

[Continued from p. 275.]

65. *Agassiz on the Progress of the Museum of Comparative Zoology.*

[Annual Report of the Curator of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard College to the President and Fellows of Harvard College for 1891-92. Cambridge, U.S.A., 1892.]

The Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard College, Cambridge, has received a valuable contribution during the past Academic year by the donation to it of the "Greene-Smith Collection" of about 1200 mounted North-American birds, "in many respects the most complete and valuable "that has ever been brought together, at least by private effort." An important addition has also been made by the purchase from Mr. Scott B. Wilson of a series of birds from the Sandwich Islands.

Prof. Agassiz complains, not without reason, we think, that in consequence of the great increase in size of the undergraduate classes at Harvard, the whole time of the Professors of the Museum is taken up by teaching, instead of being mainly devoted to original investigation, for which the Museum was primarily intended. It is not the province of the Museum, he alleges, to supply such instruction. This should be done by the University.

66. *Büttikofer on a Species of Rhipidura.*

[A Complementary Note to my Review on the Genus *Rhipidura*. By J. Büttikofer. Notes Leyden Mus. xv. p. 113.]

Mr. Büttikofer, referring to his recent review of the genus

of Flycatchers (see above, p. 265), is now able to distinguish a new species, *Rhipidura meyeri*, of the Arfak Mountains, from *R. cinnamomea*, of Eastern New Guinea. He had previously done this in MS., but had changed his views and had abolished the name which he now resuscitates.

67. *Büttikofer on Merula javanica and its allies.*

[On *Merula javanica* and its nearest Allies. By J. Büttikofer. Notes Leyden Mus. xv. p. 107.]

The results of this paper have been already stated by Mr. Seebohm (above, p. 219). Mr. Büttikofer describes *Merula celebensis* as new, and vindicates the claims of *Merula schlegeli*, from Timor, to stand as distinct.

68. *Chapman on Cuban Birds and on the Origin of the Antillean Avifauna.*

[Notes on Birds and Mammals observed near Trinidad, Cuba, with Remarks on the Origin of West-Indian Bird-life. By Frank M. Chapman. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. iv. p. 279.]

Mr. Chapman appears to have made a most pleasant and successful excursion to the south coast of Cuba in the spring of last year. The town of Trinidad, which he selected as his centre of operations, lies inland between 3 and 4 miles from the port of Casilda, and is situated 400 miles from the eastern and 350 miles from the western extremity of the island. The fertile valley of Trinidad itself is mostly devoted to sugar-cane; but various spots in it and on the adjacent hills are good for collecting, and amongst these the valley of San Juan de Letran, eight miles north of Trinidad, at an elevation of 2000 feet in the San Juan Mountains, is specified as the "realization of a naturalist's dream of the Tropics." En-sconced here in an "unoccupied thatched cabin," the fortunate naturalist found birds "exceedingly abundant," attracted to a focus by the numerous fruit-trees in the adjacent clearing. On one occasion, sitting under a tree, Mr. Chapman observed examples of 18 species within a period of ten minutes.

In the systematic part of the paper the author gives notes

on 99 birds obtained or observed during his excursion, amongst which *Conurus enops*, *Priotelus tenuirurus*, and *Todus multicolor* were "common." The following species and subspecies are described as new:—*Rallus longirostris cubanus* and *Columbigallina passerina terrestris* from Cuba; *Pitangus jamaicensis* from Jamaica; and *Dendroica petechia flaviceps* from the Bahamas. *Scolecophagus atro-violaceus* is referred to a new genus of Icteridæ called *Ptiloxena*, from the peculiar structure of its contour-feathers. The concluding section of the paper is devoted to remarks on the origin of West-Indian Bird-life, which it is rather difficult to follow without the aid of a map. It must suffice to say that the generally-recognized division of the Antilles into two groups, the Greater and Lesser Antilles, is fully recognized, as also that the zoological influence of the Lesser on the Greater Antilles is of comparatively recent date, the former having been raised, as Prof. A. Agassiz has shown, "long after the range of the greater West Indian Islands existed." The Greater Antilles were probably connected with the continent by land extending between the Mosquito coast and Jamaica at a time when sea-passages between the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific were still open, and when the representatives of some 12 families now characteristic of the Central-American Ornis had not arrived from the south. For this reason these families are not represented in the Ornis of the Greater Antilles, which contains only survivors of the forms of the ancient fauna of Central America, "preserved through the isolation afforded by an insular life."

69. Chapman and Buck's 'Wild Spain.'

[Wild Spain (España Agreste). Records of Sport with Rifle, Rod, and Gun, Natural History and Exploration. By Abel Chapman, F.Z.S., and Walter J. Buck, C.M.Z.S., of Jerez. With 174 illustrations, mostly by the Authors. London: Gurney and Jackson, 1893.]

Mr. Chapman's name is already well known to readers of 'The Ibis,' and will not fail to call immediate attention to the present volume, in which he and his coadjutor, Mr. Buck, furnish us with a large quantity of most interesting informa-

tion on the birds of the Peninsula and on other cognate subjects. Perhaps we may fairly say that the Bustards, the Flamingoes, and the Raptores of Spain are the heroes of the book, although the four-footed animals of the sierras and marismas have their share of attention. Nor are the smaller Passerines overlooked, although, as we are informed, the work is planned essentially from the view of the "sportsman-naturalist." Besides the many references in the text, a List of Spring Migrants to Spain, with date of their arrivals in Andalusia, is given in the Appendix, and Mr. A. C. Chapman contributes some interesting "Spring-Notes" on the birds of Navarre. The numerous illustrations, taken mostly from the authors' sketches, relate mainly to birds, and are, in the majority of cases, capital. Altogether, 'Wild Spain' will be found to be a rare treat to the ornithologist.

70. Collett on *Lanius excubitor* and allied forms.

[Om *Lanius excubitor*, og dens forskjellige Former Optræden i Norge. Af R. Collett. Archiv f. Mathem. og Naturv. Kristiania, xvi, p. 50.]

Prof. Collett writes on *Lanius excubitor* and the various forms of it that occur in Norway, which he arranges under six heads. These exhibit a series of stages, beginning with extra-typical *L. excubitor* (i. e. the so-called *L. homeyeri*) and passing through typical *L. excubitor* and several intermediate forms into *L. major* and nearly typical *L. borealis*. Remarks on the distribution of *L. excubitor* in Norway, and its habits, are appended.

71. Collett on Birds from the New Hebrides.

[On a Collection of Birds from Tonga, New Hebrides. By R. Collett. Vidensk.-Selskabs Forhandl. Christiania, 1892, No. 13.]

An account is given in this paper of a small collection of birds in spirit made by Mr. O. Michelsen in the New Hebrides. The specimens are referred to 20 species, amongst which is a *Rhipidura* probably new, but the example is not in a sufficiently perfect state to warrant description.

72. *Foster's Bibliography of American Naturalists.*

[Bulletin of the United States National Museum. No. 40. Bibliographies of American Naturalists. IV. The Published Writings of George Newbold Lawrence, 1844-91. By L. S. Foster. 8vo. Washington: 1892.]

The 40th number of the Bulletin of the U.S. National Museum is occupied by a very thoroughly compiled index to the published writings of Mr. G. N. Lawrence, of New York, the Nestor of American ornithologists. This is prefaced by a biographical sketch and portrait of our much-esteemed Foreign Member, now nearly 87 years of age. His first ornithological paper was written in 1844, and his last in 1891. Altogether, his memoirs are 121 in number. In the case of all these, besides the full title, Mr. Foster gives a list of the species referred to in every paper, and the pages at which they are mentioned. This is followed by an alphabetical list of the new species and subspecies described by Mr. Lawrence, 323 in all, which will be very useful to the working ornithologist. The genus *Lawrencia* of Ridgway, of the family Tyrannidæ, is called after his name, besides which 19 species, instituted by various authors, bear the specific term "*lawrencii*." Few of our craft, indeed, have accomplished such long and good service in the cause of Science.

73. *Giglioli and Manzella on Italian Birds.*

[Iconografia dell' Avifauna Italiana, ovvero tavole illustranti le specie di Uccelli che trovansi in Italia, con brevi descrizioni e note. Testo del Dott. Enrico Hillyer Giglioli; tavole di Alberto Manzella. Fasc. xxviii.-l. Folio. Prato: 1885-92.]

Since we last noticed this work, nearly seven years ago, considerable progress has been made, parts 28-50 having been issued; and we are not without hopes that it may be brought ultimately to a conclusion within a reasonable period. It will be a great satisfaction to the subscribers, and no doubt to Professor Giglioli also, to be able to arrange the plates and bind up the volumes. The figures of the 'Iconografia,' though not always above criticism, are mostly well drawn and nicely coloured, and render the species easily recog-

nizable. The work, when complete, will form a lasting testimony to the zeal and energy of the Professor in accumulating the excellent collection of Italian birds in the "Reale Istituto" in Florence, upon which it has been mainly based. Among interesting species lately figured, we may call attention to *Picus lilfordi* from Dalmatia, *Sitta whiteheadi* from Corsica, *Cypselus affinis* and *Ruticilla moussieri*, two stragglers upon the Italian coast, and *Caprimulgus asiaticus*, lately taken near Genoa.

74. Gordon on 'Our Country's Birds.'

[Our Country's Birds and How to Know Them. A Guide to all the Birds of Great Britain. By W. J. Gordon. With an Illustration in Colour of every Species and many original Diagrams by G. Willis and R. E. Holding. 8vo. London: 1892.]

'Our Country's Birds' is certainly an ornithological *multum in parvo* of no ordinary description. All the 383 "British Birds" are described in a small volume of 150 pages, and figured in 32 coloured plates. Moreover, chapters are given on "sortation," "identification," and "classification," and a great deal of useful information besides. Saunders's *Manual* is certainly more to our taste, but many of the figures in this little book are very nicely drawn, and its author is in many respects evidently quite "up to date."

75. Harvie-Brown on the Birds of the Shetlands.

[Contributions to a Fauna of the Shetland Isles. Autumn Notes. By J. A. Harvie-Brown, F.R.S.E., F.Z.S. Ann. Scottish Nat. Hist. 1893, p. 9.]

Mr. Harvie-Brown has paid two visits to the southern portion of the Shetland group in the autumnal months, and gives us as the results a list of 81 species of birds met with, and notes upon them. The Raven (*Corvus corax*) was "often seen in dozens and half-dozens," the Merlin (*Falco aesalon*) was "very common," and several examples of the Spotted Crake (*Porzana maruetta*) are spoken of.

76. *Hudson's 'Idle Days in Patagonia.'*

[Idle Days in Patagonia. By W. H. Hudson, C.M.Z.S. London: Chapman and Hall, 1893.]

This is not at all a "bird-book" in the ordinary acceptance of the term, but it contains numerous allusions to and illustrations of birds, and will be read with pleasure by those who have appreciated the author's charming volume 'The Naturalist in La Plata.'

The present work does not contain a complete account of the author's visit to the Rio Negro district of Patagonia (which took place as long ago as 1871), but is made up of a series of essays based on his experiences during that excursion. Some of these have been already published, more or less completely, in certain Reviews and Magazines, but are now combined into a harmonious whole. As already stated, many allusions to our feathered favourites occur throughout the volume, and a whole chapter is devoted to bird-music in South America. In this essay the author endeavours to prove that the ordinary idea that tropical birds, though they doubtless excel those of temperate countries in beauty of plumage, are inferior in melody, is erroneous. It is shown, on the contrary, that South America at least is "not wanting in songsters," the fact being that its ornis comprehends some 1200 Oscines—the section of Passerine birds in which the singing-organs are most highly developed.

77. *Koenig on the Birds of Tunis.*

[Zweiter Beitrag zur Avifauna von Tunis. Von Dr. A. Koenig. 8vo. Naumburg, 1893. (Separatabdruck, J. f. O. 1892-93.)]

Dr. Koenig has kindly favoured us with a separate copy of his second essay on the birds of Tunis, extracted from the 'Journal für Ornithologie' for 1892 and 1893, the first article on the same subject having appeared in the same journal for 1888. During the intervening period the author has worked hard to make additions and corrections to his former account of this interesting avifauna, and in May, 1891, made a journey to the Beylik for the special purpose

of augmenting his knowledge of this subject. The first part of the present article is devoted to an account of this journey, while the second contains a systematic list of birds of Tunis, with copious notes on the results arrived at. The route taken by Dr. Koenig on this occasion, which is illustrated by a map, was from Susa to Gábes parallel to the coast, while excursions were also made from Susa northwards. The systematic list contains the names of 228 species, thus adding 28 to the author's former summary of the Tunisian avifauna. Upon some points in this list we will offer a few remarks.

The occurrence of *Cypselus affinis* in Tunis is of great interest. Examples of this eastern species were obtained by Dr. Koenig on Djebel el Meda, near Gábes, in the month of March.

Specimens of *Hirundo rufula*, purchased from a dealer in Tunis, were stated to have been killed in the neighbourhood.

The Raven of Tunis is now recognized to be *Corvus tingitanus*, not *C. corax*.

Dr. Koenig vindicates the claims of *Galerita macro-rhyncha*, Tristram, to be distinct from *G. cristata*, to which it has been recently united in the 'Catalogue of Birds' (xiii. p. 628), and considers *G. randoni*, Loche, to be the same species. He met with it in the vicinity of Gábes.

One example of Clot-Bey's Lark (*Rhamphocorys clot-bey*) was obtained at Djebel el Meda.

Dr. Koenig holds fast to the distinctness of his *Alæmon margaritæ* (described from specimens collected during his former journey), of which he again obtained examples in the desert near Gábes. Dr. Bowdler Sharpe (Cat. B. xiii. p. 526) has united it to *Chersophilus duponti*, from which, however, it would appear to be perhaps subspecifically different.

It has hitherto been supposed that the Chaffinch (*Fringilla cælebs*) is entirely replaced in North Africa by the nearly allied *F. spodiogenys* and similar forms. It would appear, however, that the European Chaffinch visits Tunis in winter,

and occasionally lingers there far into spring. Dr. Koenig met with it in flocks in March and April in two localities north of Susa.

Three coloured plates, illustrating *Drymæca saharae*, *Saxicola mæsta*, and *Rhamphocoris clot-bey*, are annexed to this essay, which is of great interest to students of the European Ornis. We hope that Dr. Koenig will find means to visit Tunis again and bring home still further information on its attractive avifauna.

78. *Le Souëf on the Nesting of Ptilorhis victoriæ.*

[Nest and Egg of Queen Victoria's Rifle-bird (*Ptilorhis victoriæ*). By D. Le Souëf. Proc. R. Soc. Victoria, 1892.]

Mr. D. Le Souëf now figures and describes the nest and egg of the Victorian Rifle-bird (*Ptilorhis victoriæ*), obtained by himself and Mr. H. Barnard in November, 1891, on one of the Barnard Islands (*cf.* Ibis, 1892, p. 350).

79. *Lorenz on the Birds of Austro-Hungary.*

[Die Ornis von Oesterreich-Ungarn und den Occupationsländern im k.k. naturhistorischen Hofmuseum zu Wien. Zusammengestellt von Dr. Ludwig, Ritter Lorenz von Liburnau. Ann. d. k.k. nat. Hofmus. vii. p. 306, 1892.]

This is a systematic list of the specimens contained in the separate collection of the new Vienna Museum, which is devoted to the illustration of the avifauna of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. It appears that the series contains about 1600 mounted and 10,900 unmounted specimens, of which the dates, localities, and authorities are given. In an appendix the desiderata are specified.

A similar catalogue of the specimens in the British Collection at South Kensington would be very desirable, and would, no doubt, lead to the acquisition of many additional specimens of our native birds.

80. *Meyer on Aquila rapax from Astrachan.*

[*Aquila rapax* (Temm.) von Astrachan, nebst Bemerkungen über verwandte Formen, besonders *Aquila boeki*, Hom. Von A. B. Meyer. Abhandl. Gesell. 'Isis' in Dresden, Abh. 1892, p. 67.]

Dr. A. B. Meyer discusses at some length the proper determination of the specimen of *Aquila* from Astrachan, obtained by Henke in 1874, and referred by Mr. Seebohm (Ibis, 1882, p. 206) to *A. rapax*. Dr. Meyer finally comes to the conclusion that Mr. Seebohm was correct in his view, though it necessitates an extension of the previously known range of this eagle into the delta of the Wolga, which, however, is not very far from Turkey and Palestine, where it is certainly met with. *Aquila boeki* of Homeyer, after examination of the type, is considered to be a young *A. nævia* with a tendency to bright coloration.

81. *Salvadori on a new Fruit-Pigeon.*

[Descrizione di una nuova specie di Colombo del genere *Ptilopus*. Per Tommaso Salvadori. Boll. dei Mus. Zool. ed Anat. Comp. R. Univ. Torino, vii. no. 135.]

Under the name *Ptilopus tristrami*, the author describes a new species of the numerous genus from Hivaoa, Marquesas group, based on a specimen in Canon Tristram's collection. The species is allied to *P. mercieri*, with which it has been confounded by prior authorities.

82. *Satounine on the Birds of Moscow.*

[Congrès Internationaux d'Anthropologie et d'Archéologie préhistorique et de Zoologie à Moscou, 1892. Matériaux réunis par le Comité d'organisation des Congrès concernant les expositions, les excursions et les rapports sur des questions touchant les congrès. Primitiæ Faunæ Mosquensis. Aves. Par K. Satounine. Royal 8vo. Moscou: 1892.]

The memoirs collected for the benefit of the attendants at the International Congress of Anthropology, Archæology, and Zoology held at Moscow last August contain a nominal list of the birds of the surrounding district—233 in number.

The categories under which the species are classed in this list seem to us to be well selected, and the abbreviations appropriate. We add a list of them:—

- s. = *sedens*, resident.
- n. = *nidulans*, breeding.
- æ. = *æstivus*, summer visitor.

- h. = *hyemalis*, winter visitor.
 t. = *transvolans*, on passage.
 e. = *erraticus*, accidental visitor.
 R. = *rarus*, rare.
 R.R. = *rarissimus*, very rare.

83. Sharpe's 'Monograph of the Paradiseidæ.'

[Monograph of the *Paradiseidæ*, or Birds of Paradise, and *Ptilonorhynchidæ*, or Bower-Birds. By R. Bowdler Sharpe, LL.D., F.L.S., &c. Part II. Folio. London: H. Sotheran & Co., 1893.]

We are glad to see that Dr. Sharpe's 'Monograph of the Paradise-Birds' is making progress. Part II. with ten beautiful plates is now before us.

The following species are figured in it:—

<i>Ptilorhis paradisea.</i>	<i>Rhipidornis gulielmi-tertii.</i>
<i>Craspedophora intercedens.</i>	<i>Manucodia chalybeata.</i>
<i>Astrapia nigra.</i>	<i>Lycocorax obiensis.</i>
<i>Paradigalla carunculata.</i>	<i>Amblyornis inornata.</i>
<i>Paradisornis rudolphi.</i>	<i>Ælurædus stonii.</i>

Of these *Paradisornis rudolphi* is, as truly said by Dr. Sharpe, "among all the extraordinary birds that inhabit the earth, one of the most striking." Some of the plates will be recognized as old friends.

84. Sharpe's 'Index' to Gould's Bird-Books.

[An Analytical Index to the Works of the late John Gould, F.R.S. By R. Bowdler Sharpe, LL.D., F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c. With a biographical memoir and portrait. 4to. London: Henry Sotheran & Co., 1893.]

Indexes are quite in fashion now-a-days, and they are unquestionably of the greatest use to the literary "working-man" of every description. When a job is to be done it is always assigned to the most hard-worked individual to do it. It therefore naturally became the duty of Dr. Bowdler Sharpe to make an index to Gould's works; and here it is, with a portrait and biographical memoir of the great "Bird-man" to set it off. This is followed by a complete list of Gould's published works, which has been copied by per-

mission (with a few additions and corrections) from Count Salvadori's excellent memoir of Gould (Att. Acc. Sc. Torino, xxi. p. 1). The list shows that Gould's publications were altogether 320 in number, whereof 18 are illustrated folio works and the remainder 'opuscula.' The 'Analytical Index' of names and references, which forms the main part of the volume, fills 376 quarto pages, and is stated to contain nearly 17,000 references, which have been checked by the author with the aid of "his faithful attendant, Mr. Charles Chubb." We can easily understand, therefore, that the labour involved in its production has been of no small amount. In fact, the author tells us it has taken as many years to finish as he expected it would have taken months.

85. *Stolzmann on the Ornithology of Transcaspia.*

[Contribution à l'Ornithologie de la Transcaspie, d'après recherches faites par M. Thomas Bary (1888-1891). Par Jean Stolzmann. Bull. Soc. Imp. Nat. Moscou, 1892, p. 382.]

M. Thomas Bary, a correspondent of the Branicki Museum at Warsaw, went to Transcaspia on a collecting expedition in 1889, and visited Askabad, Merv, Saraks, and other localities along the Persian and Afghan frontiers. The list of the birds obtained at Askabad has been already published (Mém. Soc. Zool. France, 1890, p. 88). A complete account of the results of M. Bary's expedition as regards birds is now given by M. Stolzmann. There are 230 species represented in the collection, of which 17 are new to the avifauna of Transcaspia. *Podoces panderi* was obtained in many localities. M. Stolzmann is inclined to unite *Sitta rupicola*, Blanford, to *S. syriaca*, and shows how variable this species is, even in the same district. The name of "*Phasianus principalis*," of which a fine series of 19 examples was obtained by M. Bary on the Afghan frontier, is attributed to "Condie Stephen"! It was, however, invented by the Editor of this Journal, though based on specimens transmitted by Mr. Condie Stephen to the Prince of Wales. See P. Z. S. 1885, p. 324.

86. *Wilson and Evans's 'Aves Hawaiienses.'*

[*Aves Hawaiienses*: the Birds of the Sandwich Islands. By Scott B. Wilson, F.Z.S., assisted by A. H. Evans, M.A., F.Z.S. Part IV., January 1893.* 4to. London: R. H. Porter.]

We are much pleased to welcome the fourth part of the '*Aves Hawaiienses*,' and trust that the fifth and concluding part will quickly follow. Messrs. Wilson and Evans cannot expect to render their account of the birds of this highly interesting "Subregion" perfect, as we know that the fertile avifauna of the Sandwich Islands is by no means yet exhausted. But they will at all events have established a solid base for future workers, and have given us, in an excellently illustrated volume, sufficient materials to form accurate views as to the general character of the Hawaiian Avifauna.

The following species are figured in this part:—

Corvus tropicus, *Chloridops kona*, *Ciridops anna*, *Himatione mana*, *Bernicla sandvicensis*, *Anas wyvilliana*, *Gallinula sandvicensis*, *Oceanodroma cryptoleucura*, *Puffinus cuneatus*.

XLII.—*Letters, Extracts, Notices, &c.*

THE following letters, addressed to the Editor, have been received:—

SIR,—I wish, with your kind permission, to record in your next issue the recent occurrence of a very rare visitor in this country, namely the Bohemian Waxwing (*Ampelis garrula*), a fine specimen of which was shot near Ballinderry, Co. Antrim, on 22nd February last. The bird has occurred in this locality before (*vide* Thompson, Watters, and others), but I have met with no *recent* record whatever of its appearance.

Croft House, Holywood,
Co. Down, 7th March, 1893.

Yours &c.,
R. LLOYD PATTERSON.

SIR,—The method of snaring Birds of Paradise in the interior of the Port Moresby district has been correctly described by Mr. Thomson, as cited in the last number of '*The Ibis*' (above, p. 274). The "dancing-tree" there

* For notice of Part III. see *Ibis*, 1892, p. 575.